

SECTION 3.0 – EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Section 3.0 examines the potential environmental impacts of the project and project alternatives. This section includes analyses of the environmental issue areas listed below:

- 3.1 OPERATIONAL SAFETY/RISK OF ACCIDENTS
- 3.2 WATER QUALITY
- 3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- 3.4 COMMERCIAL AND SPORTS FISHERIES
- 3.5 LAND USE/RECREATION
- 3.6 AIR QUALITY
- 3.7 NOISE
- 3.8 VEHICULAR AND RAIL TRANSPORTATION
- 3.9 VISUAL RESOURCES/LIGHT AND GLARE
- 3.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES
- 3.11 GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES/STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY REVIEW
- 3.12 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Each issue area section provides background information and describes the environmental setting (baseline conditions) to help the reader understand the conditions that would cause an impact to occur. In addition, each section describes how an impact is determined to be "significant" or "less than significant". Finally, the individual sections recommend mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts. Throughout Section 3.0, both impacts and the corresponding mitigation measures are identified by a bold **letter-number designation** (e.g., Impact **BIO-1** and mitigation measure **BIO-1a**).

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Environmental Baseline

The analysis of each issue area begins with an examination of the existing physical setting (baseline conditions as determined pursuant to section 15125(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines) that may be affected by the Proposed Project. The effects of the Proposed Project are defined as changes to the environmental setting that are attributable to project components or operation.

1 **Significance Criteria**

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3 Significance criteria are identified for each environmental issue area. The significance
4 criteria serve as a benchmark for determining if a component action will result in a
5 significant adverse environmental impact when evaluated against the baseline.
6 According to State CEQA Guidelines section 15382, a significant effect on the
7 environment means "...a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any
8 of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project..."
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10 **Impact Analysis**

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12 The impact analysis focuses both on routine operating conditions of the marine terminal
13 and accidents that could occur during routine operations. Routine operations are those
14 daily activities involved in receipt of crude and transfer of product between vessels, and
15 the transit of vessels from the Golden Gate to/from the marine terminal. Accident
16 conditions addressed include fire, explosions, and spills, and their resultant consequences.
17 This document addresses briefly impacts from tankering along the outer coast.
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19 As part of the impact analyses, the consequences of oil spills that could result from
20 accidents are evaluated. The Unocal Marine Terminal Lease Consideration EIR
21 (Chambers Group 1994), Shore Terminal's Oil Spill Response Plan (BlueWater
22 Consultants 2001), and pertinent Clean Bay oil spill trajectory models as contained in
23 Wickland's Application Responses and Supporting Appendices (Wickland 1998)
24 contained extensive oil spill modeling that show that oil spread can potentially cover the
25 entire area between I-80 and the Delta entrance, which is near West Pittsburgh. Thus,
26 it is assumed that any sensitive resources throughout that area could be oiled. The
27 analyses for accident conditions in this EIR examine the potential impacts to sensitive
28 environmental resources between I-80 and the Delta entrance, and provide specific
29 mitigation to be conducted by Shore to reduce or eliminate impacts. The primary
30 analysis focuses on the terminal and the area between I-80 and the Delta, with
31 secondary and tertiary emphasis on the Bay and outer coast, respectively.
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33 Impacts are classified as:

- 34
35 ➤ **Class I** (significant adverse impact that remains significant after mitigation);
36 ➤ **Class II** (significant adverse impact that can be eliminated or reduced below an
37 issue's significance criteria);
38 ➤ **Class III** (adverse impact that does not meet or exceed an issue's significance
39 criteria); or
40 ➤ **Class IV** (beneficial impact).
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42 A determination will be made, based on the analysis of any impact within each affected
43 environmental issue area and compliance with any recommended mitigation
44 measure(s), of the level of impact remaining in comparison to the pertinent significance
45 criteria. If the impact remains significant, at or above the significance criteria, it is
46 deemed to be Class I. If a "significant adverse impact" is reduced, based on

1 compliance with mitigation, to a level below the pertinent significance criteria, it is
2 determined to no longer have a significant effect on the environment, i.e., to be "less
3 than significant" (Class II). If an action creates an adverse impact above the baseline
4 condition, but such impact does not meet or exceed the pertinent significance criteria, it
5 is determined to be adverse, but less than significant (Class III). An action that provides
6 an improvement to an environmental issue area in comparison to the baseline
7 information is recognized as a beneficial impact (Class IV).

8 9 **Formulation of Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting** 10 **Program**

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12 When significant impacts are identified, feasible mitigation measures are formulated to
13 eliminate or reduce the intensity of the impacts and focus on the protection of sensitive
14 resources. The effectiveness of a mitigation measure is subsequently determined by
15 evaluating the impact remaining after its application. Those impacts meeting or
16 exceeding the impact significance criteria after mitigation are considered residual
17 impacts that remain significant (Class I). Implementation of more than one mitigation
18 measure may be needed to reduce an impact below a level of significance. The
19 mitigation measures recommended in this document are identified in the impact
20 assessment sections and presented in a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
21 (MMRP). The MMRP is provided in Section 8.0.

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23 If any mitigation measures become incorporated as part of a project's design, they are
24 no longer considered mitigation measures under the CEQA. If they eliminate or reduce
25 a potentially significant impact to a level below the significance criteria, they eliminate
26 the potential for that significant impact since the "measure" is now a component of the
27 action. Such measures incorporated into the project design have the same status as
28 any "applicant proposed measures." The CSLC's practice is to include all measures to
29 eliminate or reduce the environmental impacts of a Proposed Project, whether applicant
30 proposed or recommended mitigation, in the MMRP.

31 32 **Impacts of Alternatives**

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34 Section 2.4 provides a list, description and map that identify alternatives to the
35 Proposed Project. Each issue area in Section 3.0 presents the impact analysis for each
36 alternative scenario. A summary of the collective impacts of each alternative in
37 comparison with the impacts of the Proposed Project is to be included within the
38 Executive Summary Section.

39 40 **Cumulative Impacts**

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42 Section 4.0 provides a list and map that identifies other related future projects near the
43 location of the Proposed Project and alternatives. Each issue area in Section 3.0 is
44 discussed in Section 4.0 and presents the cumulative impact scenario, the focus of
45 which is to identify the potential impacts of the project that might not be significant when
46 considered alone, but that might contribute to a significant impact when viewed in
47 conjunction with the other projects.